

**Working to eliminate the worst forms
of child labor, forced labor, and
human trafficking worldwide.**

25

CELEBRATING

YEARS

**OF INTERNATIONAL
TECHNICAL COOPERATION, AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT,
AWARENESS,**



Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Our Mission

The mission of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) at the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is to promote a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening labor standards, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking.



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Global Problem of Child Labor and Modern Slavery

Global estimates from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and Walk Free indicate that 152 million children between 5-17 years old engaged in child labor in 2016, of which about 73 million were in hazardous labor.

Concerted efforts by governments, workers, employers, and civil society have resulted in a reduction of nearly 94 million children engaged in child labor in the last 17 years. While this decline has been a significant achievement, there are still far too many children in exploitive work. Child laborers are found carrying heavy loads and wielding machetes on farms; scavenging in garbage dumps and being exposed to electronic waste; enduring physical, emotional, and verbal abuse as domestic servants; and fighting as child combatants in armed conflict. Many are also subject to trafficking for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

The ILO also estimates that 25 million people are trapped in forced labor, including more than 4 million children. Children and adults are forced to climb into mineshafts in search of diamonds and gold; are coerced, deceived, and confined on fishing vessels by unscrupulous labor recruiters; and are trapped in bonded labor while toiling in the extreme heat of brick kilns.



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Definitions

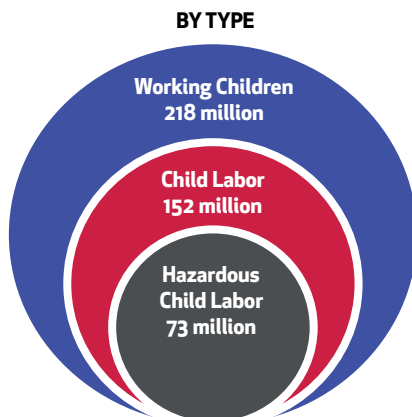
Child Labor is defined by ILO Convention 138 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. It includes employment below the minimum age as established in national legislation, hazardous unpaid household services, and the worst forms of child labor: all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale or trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom, or forced or compulsory labor; the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic purposes; the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities; and work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Forced Labor is defined by ILO Convention 29 as all work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

Human Trafficking is defined by the Palermo Protocol as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of an individual by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation.

GLOBAL DATA ON CHILD LABOR (2016), 5-17 YEARS

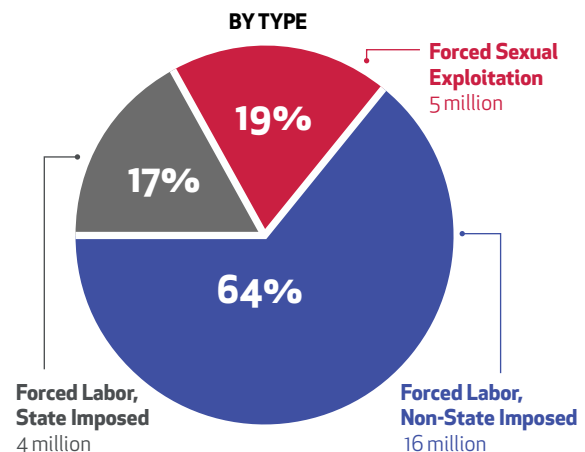
152 million children are engaged in **child labor**



Source: International Labor Organization and Walk Free (2017)

GLOBAL DATA ON FORCED LABOR (2016)

25 million people are engaged in **forced labor**



Our Impact

With 25 years of experience, ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) is a world leader in the fight to eradicate these labor abuses. ILAB's toolbox includes international research awareness, policy engagement, and technical cooperation.

Demonstrated commitment and leadership in the worldwide movement to end child labor, which has contributed to the global reduction of **94 million child laborers in the last 17 years.**

In-depth research on child labor and forced labor in more than 150 countries around the world, including individual country roadmaps to support the enforcement of labor provisions in trade agreements and preference programs.

Partnerships with 97 governments and 80 organizations to strengthen laws, enforcement, policies, and social programs to end child labor.

Technical cooperation that made a difference in the lives of close to 2 million children and 185,000 families through education and livelihood support.

Social compliance tools for businesses and trade associations, such as the mobile application *ComplyChain*, to **raise awareness of risks and highlight remediation practices to ensure that child labor and forced labor are not in global supply chains.**

For more information or to contact us, please visit USDOL's website at <http://www.dol.gov/endchildlabor> or email at GlobalKids@dol.gov.

IN FOCUS: Meet Lizeth from Colombia

Somos Tesoro in Colombia: The Transformation of Child Labor in Mining Communities



Lizeth Mendoza remembers that before the *Somos Tesoro* project first came to her village of Puerto Jobo, she often saw children after school working in streams under the hot sun with their *bateas*, searching for gold. Today, those *bateas* – the shallow wooden pans used to capture small gold particles from the streams – lie unused in the corners of their homes. The children now spend more time riding bicycles and playing soccer.

Much has changed for Lizeth and the children of Puerto Jobo. Through the *Somos Tesoro* project, Lizeth participated in

training workshops led by the nonprofit Pact, during which she learned about savings strategies, growing vegetables, and raising farm animals. She also learned about the negative impact of mercury on her health and received safety equipment to protect her while she worked in the artisanal gold mines. She even gained new skills; together with 19 other families, Lizeth participates in the pilot fish-farming project, which has raised 23,000 fish to date. Sharing the good news, Lizbeth said, “Every day a group of us goes to the [fish] pool to feed them; we are happy to go. We have learned to work better as a team, to be more united. I am happy.”

From 2013-2018, USDOL provided \$9.5 million in funding to *Alianza por la Minería Responsable*, *Fondo Acción*, and *Fundación Mi Sangre* to implement the *Somos Tesoro* project, which so far has directly benefitted 4,300 households and 13,000 children and adolescents. The *Somos Tesoro* project in Colombia takes a holistic approach that has proven effective in reducing child labor. The project raises awareness of child rights and the consequences of working at an early age. In addition, the project supports programs to increase food security and financial savings and to educate on safe gold mining practices. The project is also helping individuals build income to supplement artisanal mining wages and increasing support for education. This holistic approach has contributed to reducing child labor. When asked whether this trend will continue, Puerto Jobo’s community leader, Jose Solano, says it best, “In Puerto Jobo, we don’t want to see our children working anymore.” Those *bateas* will remain in the corners of their homes, unused by the children of Puerto Jobo.

Research and Reporting on International Child Labor and Forced Labor

ILAB as a Knowledge Generator

ILAB's research and reporting are carried out under Congressional mandates and Presidential directives. They provide specific, actionable information to various stakeholders about how to combat labor abuses in countries around the world.

- Foreign governments use the reports to strengthen laws, enforcement, policies, and programs for vulnerable children and families in or at-risk of child labor or forced labor.
- Companies rely on these reports as a critical input for risk assessments, to conduct due diligence on their supply chains, and to develop strategies to address the problem.
- Consumers utilize our research to minimize the risk that their purchases inadvertently support exploitative labor practices around the world.
- Civil society organizations, including academic institutions, use the reports to inform advocacy efforts and strategies to assist victims.
- U.S. federal government agencies use the reports to safeguard federal procurement and imports of goods made with forced labor, including forced child labor.





LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Trade and Development Act (TDA) of 2000

Produce the Department of Labor's annual *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.

CONTENT

Report on U.S. trade beneficiary countries and territories' efforts to implement their commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the areas of laws and regulations, institutional mechanisms for enforcement and coordination, and government policies and programs. The report also includes findings on the prevalence and sectoral distribution of the worst forms of child labor, and concrete suggested actions each government could take to advance efforts to combat this problem.



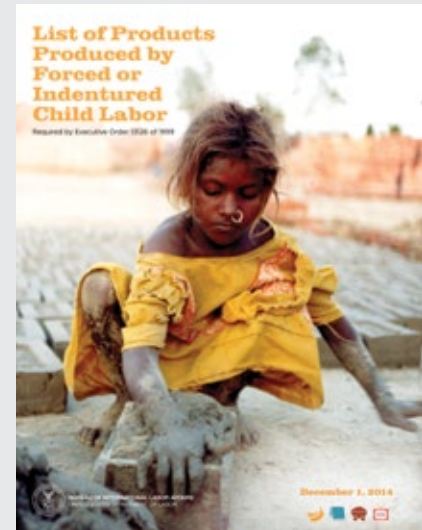
LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005

Develop a list of goods from countries produced by **child labor** or **forced labor**.

CONTENT

The TVPRA List includes goods that ILAB has reason to believe are produced by child labor, forced labor, or both, in violation of international standards. ILAB publishes new editions every two years, most recently in September 2018.



LEGISLATION & MANDATE

Executive Order (EO) 13126 of 1999

Develop and maintain a list of products from countries produced by **forced** or **indentured child labor**.

CONTENT

ILAB has updated the EO 13126 List periodically since 2001. Under procurement regulations, federal contractors who supply products on the List must certify that they have made a good faith effort to determine whether forced or indentured child labor was used to produce the items supplied.

For more information or to contact us, please visit USDOL's website at: dol.gov/EndChildLabor

Other Research

ILAB also funds research projects that develop and pilot new tools and methodologies that deepen our knowledge and understanding of child labor and forced labor, including their root causes. ILAB programming has supported:

- The collection and analysis of credible data on child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking through the implementation of over 90 national child labor surveys and 10 surveys focused on forced labor or forced child labor;
- The development of new survey methodologies, qualitative and quantitative studies, and statistical guidelines on child labor and forced labor; and
- The establishment of global estimates on child labor and forced labor, which serve as the standard for measuring worldwide progress on these issues.





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Research to Action

A Blueprint for Governments

ILAB's Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labor (CLEAR) project provides support for willing countries to act upon information and specific suggested actions contained in ILAB's flagship reports on child labor and forced labor. These actions often include bringing local and national laws into compliance with international standards; improving the monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies related to child labor; adopting and implementing national plans of action on child labor; and strengthening programs aimed at child labor reduction and prevention. As a result of support from the CLEAR project:

- Serbia has implemented new prohibitions on hazardous work activities for children under 18 and worked to develop a country-relevant Roadmap on Child Labor;
- Sri Lanka has utilized new child labor survey data to better target its child labor policies and update its hazardous work list for children;
- Bangladesh is adopting new standard operating procedures for labor inspections to better detect cases of child labor and;
- Paraguay is putting its own resources to better use and reaching more children by improving coordination between the country's two largest anti-poverty programs.

IN FOCUS: Meet Ferenju from Ethiopia

Raised by a single mother, Ferenju Godie had to make a choice no child should have to make: Help his mother feed his five siblings or go hungry. He chose to help. At age 12, he cooked and sold pastries on the streets of Chilga in western Ethiopia. He also worked in other people's fields as a day laborer, earning a little money to help feed his family and to buy school supplies.

Ferenju worked for more than 10 hours a day, including at night. When he was able to make it to school, he found himself exhausted and perpetually worried about making ends meet. Fortunately, Ferenju learned about USDOL's E4Y project and its efforts to help young people like him move out of the worst forms of child labor and back into school. He seized the opportunity. The project provided him with books, school supplies, and a uniform, which allowed him to quit working and focus on his studies. The project also supported Ferenju's mother with livelihood services and business development training so that she could support all of her children. Liberated from work, Ferenju is now focused on his future. He dreams of becoming a doctor and lifting his family out of poverty.



© World Vision Ethiopia

Ferenju Godie, a participant in a USDOL-funded program for children engaged in the worst forms of child labor in Ethiopia.



Policy Engagement

Achieving Meaningful and Sustained Action

Partnerships between Governments, Civil Society, and Businesses

ILAB brings governments, civil society, and businesses together to ensure that each plays a constructive and coordinated role in combating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. Such partnerships are vital to achieving substantive and sustainable change.

Empowering Civil Society

ILAB helps empower civil society organizations to play a critical role in monitoring and responding to cases of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The often hidden and unlawful nature of these abuses makes it difficult to obtain accurate and objective information on the nature and magnitude of the problem in a particular country or sector. In addition, when information does exist, there is frequently a lack of independent verification and ways to disseminate the information, hold violators accountable, and monitor follow-up actions for victims.

Through its technical cooperation and direct engagement, ILAB helps civil society organizations carry out vital functions to address abusive labor practices. Below are examples of the types of ways ILAB has partnered with civil society:

- Funds research on forced labor in high-risk industries, such as in electronics, to understand cases of labor exploitation and help spur industry commitments to tackle the issue in their supply chain;
- Provides regular and ongoing monitoring and reporting of labor rights abuses, including child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;
- Calls for more effective action by governments and private sector actors to address child labor, forced labor and human trafficking; and
- Demonstrates effective ways for victims of child labor, forced labor and human trafficking to access assistance.

Partnering with the Private Sector

ILAB's sustained, ongoing private sector engagement is helping companies confront persistent challenges in eliminating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in supply chains. Companies are increasingly looking to ILAB for assistance in pursuing risk-mitigation strategies. ILAB gives these firms the tools they need to understand relevant laws, regulations, and policies and to model effective strategies for monitoring and remediation. For example, Comply Chain provides companies eight steps for developing a robust social compliance system for monitoring global supply chains.





Comply Chain

Business Tools for Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains

Comply Chain is our mobile application for addressing child labor and forced labor in global supply chains. This free online and mobile application contains best practices guidance for companies on developing social compliance systems to reduce child labor and forced labor in their supply chains.

Comply Chain includes eight modules ranging from stakeholder engagement to code of conduct provisions, and from auditing to remediation to reporting. Companies that are new to social compliance can work through the modules in order, and more experienced companies can select modules based on their continuous improvement goals.

You can download the free app from the iTunes or Google Play store, or access it on our website: <https://www.dol.gov/general/apps/ilab-comply-chain>.



Sweat & Toil

Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking Around the World

ILAB's **Sweat & Toil app** puts over 1,000 pages of research on child and forced labor in over 150 countries into the palm of your hand and contains detailed reporting from all three of ILAB's flagship reports.

You can download the free app from the iTunes or Google Play store and access the data behind the app on our website: <https://www.dol.gov/general/apps/ilab>.

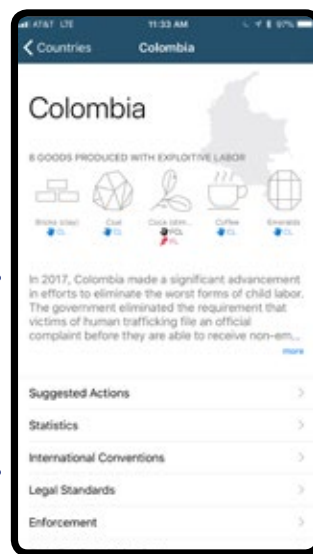
Check countries' **efforts** to eliminate child labor

Review **laws and ratifications**

Browse **goods** produced with child labor or forced labor

See what governments can do to **end child labor**

Find **child labor data**



IN FOCUS: Addressing Forced Labor in the Fishing Sector

Recent high-profile pieces of investigative journalism have raised public awareness of forced labor in the global fishing industry. ILAB has been working to address this issue for almost twenty years.

- In 2009, ILAB added seven seafood-related goods to its initial List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor pursuant the TVPRA, which included both Thai and Burmese shrimp produced by forced labor.
- In 2009, ILAB mobilized funding to combat child labor in the fishing sector in Indonesia and the Philippines, withdrawing or preventing children from hazardous work and developing monitoring teams with the government and the ILO.
- In 2010, ILAB expanded its programming in this sector to address shrimp and seafood-processing areas in Thailand. The Royal Thai Government continues to implement several pilot initiatives developed by this project, including The Good Labor Practices (GLP) program, which is a comprehensive fisheries industry improvement program

that combines establishment of industry labor guidelines with a supportive good labor practices training program.

As a result of efforts by ILAB and many others, more governments are extending protections and ramping up inspections of vessels. Civil society groups and the private sector are creating tools to help the sector combat labor abuses, several of which incorporate the TVPRA and EO lists into their methodology or resource lists. The TVPRA report is used as a key source of data in several toolkits in the industry, including:

- ResponsibleSourcingTool.org, which provides guidance to companies on how to develop compliance plans to address and prevent human trafficking in their supply chains.
- The Seafood Slavery Risk Tool, which rates the likelihood that forced labor, human trafficking, or hazardous child labor is occurring within a fishery.
- The Labor Safe Screen, which helps clients trace seafood supply chains and focus resources on the riskiest fisheries.



Targeted Initiatives

Assistance for Vulnerable Children and Families

ILAB projects adopt a holistic approach to promote sustainable efforts that address child labor and forced labor's underlying causes, including poverty and lack of access to education. Project strategies include linking vulnerable groups to existing government social programs, providing children with quality education or afterschool services, helping families improve their livelihoods to meet basic needs without relying on child labor, and raising awareness about risks to trafficking so that adults don't end up in situations of forced labor.

Building Governments' Capacity

ILAB works with governments to make them more effective in combating labor abuses, through efforts in areas such as data collection, monitoring, and enforcement. As a direct result of ILAB initiatives:

- Approximately 80 countries have strengthened their monitoring and enforcement of laws, regulations, policies, and programs to combat child labor, forced labor and human trafficking;
- More than 50,000 labor inspectors and law enforcement officials have been trained to more effectively enforce child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking laws and regulations; and
- Effective practices for providing services to child and adult victims have been adopted more broadly worldwide. For example, ILAB worked in partnership with the Government of Brazil to design and pilot a monitoring tool that tracks participants of the Integrated Action Program, an initiative that provides job and entrepreneurship opportunities to victims of forced labor.

Focus on Modern Slavery

ILAB is a recognized global leader in combating the trafficking of children and adults for labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

- In 1995, ILAB became the first U.S. government agency to fund a project specifically aimed at tackling the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Thailand.
- Since then, ILAB programming to combat trafficking and forced child labor has expanded to some of the most challenging environments and sectors in the world – from deep sea fishing in Indonesia and brick kilns in Nepal to cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
- Today, ILAB is continuing to combat hereditary slavery in countries such as Mauritania and Niger.

ILAB Projects are Monitored for Results

ILAB continues to invest in impact evaluations of innovative interventions to broaden the global knowledge base on effective strategies for combating child labor and forced labor. Evidence from the ILAB-funded randomized controlled trials, the gold standard for impact evaluations, has been used to inform governments and policymakers around the world. For example:

- Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) collaborated closely with the Ministry of Education in Peru to test and scale up information campaigns which use telenovelas and tablets to educate students and their parents to reduce school drop-out and child labor.
- ILAB's impact evaluation partner in the Philippines (IPA Philippines) has seen increased willingness and interest among government partners in using evidence for decision-making as a result of their collaboration to evaluate a government program to combat child labor.
- UNICEF is using evidence from its ILAB-funded impact evaluations to advocate for improvements in national cash transfer programs, for example, in Malawi.

IN FOCUS: From Forced Labor to Freedom

From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labor (The Bridge Project)

ILAB's Bridge project aims to assist countries with efforts to address forced labor, using the ILO's Protocol and Recommendation to Convention 29 on Forced Labor as a basis for concrete and sustained action. These instruments aim to advance forced labor prevention, protection, and compensation measures around the world. As a result of support from the Bridge project, 17 countries have ratified the Protocol. Among these ratifications is Mauritania, which is the last country in the world to have abolished slavery. The project is working with the Government of Mauritania to address the vestiges of slavery. The project is also supporting efforts to carry out research to collect reliable data and share knowledge across institutions at the global and national levels. In particular, it is engaging with the governments of Malaysia, Nepal, Niger, and Peru, and Thailand to carry out research, including nationally representative statistics on child labor and forced labor. The results of these studies will provide vital information for these countries to develop more targeted policies, programs, and enforcement efforts related to forced labor. The project is also providing job skills and employment training to 600 former bonded laborers in Nepal.

A portrait of a young boy, Iqbal Masih, with dark hair and a serious expression, wearing a white button-down shirt. The background is a blurred pattern of red and gold. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor

The Iqbal Masih award reflects the spirit of Iqbal Masih, a Pakistani child sold into bonded labor as a carpet weaver at age 4. He escaped his servitude at age 10 and became an outspoken advocate of children's rights, drawing international attention in his fight against child labor. Masih was killed in Pakistan at age 13 in 1995.

The United States Congress established the Iqbal Masih Award for the Elimination of Child Labor in 2008 to recognize exceptional efforts by an individual, company, organization or national government to end the worst forms of child labor.

WHAT CAN YOU



DO TO HELP ADDRESS CHILD LABOR AND FORCED LABOR?

ASK QUESTIONS.



Could some of the goods I buy be made by child labor or forced labor?

Do workers have a voice to speak out against labor abuses?

What are companies doing to end child labor and forced labor in global supply chains?

What are governments doing to combat child labor and forced labor?

TAKE ACTION.



Empower yourself with knowledge and download USDOL's *Sweat & Toil* and *Comply Chain* apps.

Make your voice heard by spreading the word among friends, family, and the companies you buy from and invest in.

Show your support for organizations that are working to end these abuses.

DEMAND CHANGE.



Advocate for a world in which:

Workers everywhere can raise their voices against child labor, forced labor, and other abuses.

Companies make serious commitments to ensure that global supply chains are free of products made by child labor and forced labor, especially those on USDOL's *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*.

Your investments have a positive social impact by promoting responsible labor practices.

Governments work vigorously to adopt the country-specific suggested actions in USDOL's *Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*.



Learn more: dol.gov/EndChildLabor
To contact us, please email GlobalKids@dol.gov

